

House Joint Memorial 17

Sponsored by Representative HANNA; Representatives BUTLER, CAMERON, DALLUM, ESQUIVEL, FLORES, GARRARD, GILLIAM, GILMAN, GIROD, KRIEGER, MAURER, NELSON, OLSON, RICHARDSON, SCOTT, G SMITH, THATCHER, WHISNANT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges President of United States and Congress to amend federal law to allow applicants for unemployment insurance benefits to be tested for drugs or alcohol and to allow states to deduct costs of drug and alcohol testing from unemployment insurance benefits.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas Oregon employers identify drug and alcohol use as a key obstacle to hiring otherwise qualified workers; and

Whereas the percentage of Oregon employers that identify on-the-job drug and alcohol use as a great concern has risen to an all-time high; and

Whereas many Oregon employers want to ensure that unemployment insurance recipients are qualified to work in a drug- and alcohol-free workplace; and

Whereas many Oregon employers want to ensure that unemployment insurance recipients do not receive benefits if they test positive for drugs or alcohol; and

Whereas we have heard over and over that drugs plus time (being unemployed) equals crime; and

Whereas requiring unemployment insurance recipients and employees to be drug- and alcohol-free can be a carrot and a stick to help these Oregonians to decide to change their lives for the better; and

Whereas we are advised that requiring applicants for unemployment benefits to take drug tests to be eligible for benefits, or to have the cost of drug tests deducted from unemployment benefits, would conflict with federal law; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to amend federal law to allow applicants for unemployment insurance benefits to be tested for drugs or alcohol to be eligible for benefits and to allow the costs of drug and alcohol testing to be deducted from unemployment insurance benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.